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A STATION IN THE DELTA

John Cassidy. Scribners, \$9.95 ISBN 0-684-16156-7

Through sensitive realism and the seductive power of good storytelling, Cassidy demonstrates that the Vietnam War is not passé as a fictional subject. CIA agent Busch, determined to vindicate a reputation tarnished by apparent failure in Frankfurt, is posted in 1967 to the Mekong Delta. Having brought a new efficiency and alertness to the area's intelligence operation, he discovers sensational evidence that the Viet Cong are about to launch a massive Tet offensive. He also discovers love, in the person of a beautiful Vietnamese war widow. His hostile superior (remembering Frankfurt) won't credit Busch's information, and it's only when at the last moment, Busch gets through to *his* superior that disaster is averted. The prose is lean, the story a controlled blend of intrigue, love, betrayal and bloody death involving credible people in all-too-actual situations. Cassidy, whose first novel this is, once toured Vietnam as a CIA agent himself.

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